

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 EA-06 TRSE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 FRB-03 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 OMB-01 STR-04

FEAE-00 ACDA-05 /117 W

----- 004273

R 021637Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0780

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, EEC, XH, XF

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SUBJECT: LEN MURRAY ON THE EC: "WE'RE NOT GETTING OUR

KNICKERS IN A TWIST"

SUMMARY: DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH SEVERAL LONDON-BASED LABOR ATTACHES ON APRIL 30 (SEE SEPTTEL FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE ECONOMY), TUC GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY CONTRASTED THE TUC'S "LOW-KEY" APPROACH TO THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN WITH THE "PUERILE" FIGHTING WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE TUC'S FUTURE ROLE IN EUROPE, EXPRESSED "GREAT RELIEF" AT THE ENDING OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM, PRAISED THE SECRETARY OF STATE "FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB", MADE A BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE SHELEPIN VISIT AND ANNOUNCED THAT TUC LEADERS WOULD BE VISITING TEL AVIV AND SYRIA THIS SUMMER. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN - HE SAID THAT THE TUC DOES NOT WANT "TO TEAR ITSELF TO PIECES" OVER THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, A MOOD WHICH HE CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH THE "PUERILE" DEBATE WHICH WAS DIVIDING THE LABOR PARTY. HE SPOKE CONTEMPTUOUSLY OF THE SIDE-TAKING BY TRANSPORT HOUSE STAFF ON THE ISSUE AND SAID SIMILAR BEHAVIOUR BY TUC STAFF WOULD NEVER BE TOLERATED. THE TUC WAS TAKING A "LOW-KEY" APPROACH TO THE REFERENDUM, WOULD PROVIDE PAMPHLETS, BULLETINS, AND SPEAKERS TO DESCRIBE WHY THE TUC DOES NOT BELIEVE THE RENEGOTIATED TERMS WERE SUFFICIENT TO CHANGE ITS POSITION OF "CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO THE EC". BUT IT WOULD NOT INSTRUCT ITS AFFILIATED UNIONS. SAID MURRAY: "WE ARE NOT GETTING OUR KNICKERS IN A TWIST" OVER THE EC ISSUE AND, IN ANY CASE, THE TUC WILL ONLY HAVE "A MARGINAL EFFECT" ON THE OUTCOME, WILL NOT CAUSE ANY "MASSIVE SHIFT IN VOTES".

3. AFTER THE WAR IS OVER - WHEN THE REFERENDUM WAS COMPLETED THE GENERAL COUNCIL WILL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK BUT HE EXPECTS THE TUC TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN EUROPE, IN OR OUT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IF THE VOTE IS "NO", THE TUC WILL BE IN EUROPE THROUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, EVEN IF IT IS "VILIFIED" BY ITS EUROPEAN BRETHREN. IF THE VOTE IS "YES", THEN "THE TUC WILL BE EMBARRASSED" BUT IT WILL EXPECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, ALTHOUGH THE EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TENT OF THIS WILL DEPEND ON AVAILABLE PERSONNEL AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. MOREOVER, IT WILL WANT TO TAKE A VERY CAREFUL LOOK AT SOME OF THE EC INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH TRADE UNIONS PLAY A ROLE, SUCH AS THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, OF WHICH THE TUC IS VERY CRITICAL (MAINLY BECAUSE IT IS UNWIELDY AND INEFFECTIVE). ALSO, IT WILL WANT TO EFFECT A CHANGE IN THE MODUS OPERANDI OF THE ETUC'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY. MURRAY CHARGED THAT THE

ETUC'S BRUSSELS SECRETARIAT HAS OVER-RELIED ON THE EC COMMISSION TO FASHION ITS POLICY, MAINLY BY USING THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTS WHICH BECAME THE BASIS FOR ETUC POSITIONS. THE TUC IS ALSO DETERMINED TO CHANGE THE ETUC SECRETARIAT'S INSISTENCE ON PRESENTING THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR VIEW OF ITS AFFILIATED TRADE UNION CENTERS. WHILE THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE SOME ISSUES ON WHICH AN AGREED CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED, THERE WILL BE OTHERS, SUCH AS IN THE ENERGY AREA, WHERE THE TUC POSITION DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THE CONTINENTAL UNIONS AND WHERE IT WOULD STRONGLY WISH TO PRESENT ITS OWN VIEW TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

4. VIETNAM - MURRAY'S MAJOR REACTION WAS ONE "OF GREAT RELIEF" THAT THE WAR WAS OVER IN VIETNAM. HE FELT THAT THE SITUATION HAD BEEN "IMPOSSIBLE IN GEO-POLITICAL TERMS" FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND HE DID NOT SHARE THE CRITICISM HE HAS READ OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO HE BELIEVES HAS

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FEAE-00 ACDA-05 /117 W

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R 021637Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0781

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DONE "AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB" (IN DISENGAGING THE U.S. FROM AN ACTIVE MILITARY ROLE IN VIETNAM). THE INITIAL REACTION IN THE U.S. TO THE ENDING OF THE WAR MAY REVIVE ISOLATIONIST FEELINGS, BUT "IN TIME THIS WILL CHANGE". HE EXPECTED THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ROLE TO BECOME "MORE REALISTIC" AND THAT VIETNAM WILL DO FOR THE U.S. WHAT SUEZ DID FOR THE BRITISH -- PROVIDE A MUCH HEALTHIER PERSPECTIVE AND ALLOW THE U.S. TO DRAW A LINE "IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM WHERE IT CAN HOLD THE LINE". (COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT AN OFFICIAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY WITH WHOM WE SPOKE LATER TENDED TO SHARE, IN BROAD TERMS, THE SAME GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION AS DID MURRAY.)

5. THE "SHELEPIN AFFAIR" - MURRAY SAID THAT THE "SHELEPIN AFFAIR" DID NOT CHANGE THE TUC'S VIEWS "ONE IOTA" AND THAT IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO "THROW UP" SOMEONE ELSE TO SUCCEED SHELEPIN AS HEAD OF THE AUCCTU, "WE WOULD DEAL WITH HIM". THE TUC CHIEF, AS HAVE OTHER TUC LEADERS, DE-((#)) THE ANGLO-SOVIET TRADE UNION COMMITTEE. HE SAID THE TUC DISCUSSED WITH SHELEPIN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND URGED SOME CONTACT BETWEEN AUCCTU AND HISTADRUT, BUT WHILE THE RUSSIANS TOLD THE TUC THAT THE SOVIETS RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO EXIST, THEY WERE "VERY COY" ABOUT TACTICS OF RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN THEIR TRADE UNION CENTER AND HISTADRUT. (MURRAY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING A TRIP THIS SUMMER AS THE

GUEST OF HISTADRUT AND THAT A SEPARATE TRIP WAS PLANNED
FOR SYRIA, IN WHICH HE, JACK JONES AND PERHAPS OTHER TUC
LEADERS WOULD PARTICIPATE.)

RICHARDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: (##) APPARENT OMISSION.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON06680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750586/aaaadbia.tel
Line Count: 230
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEN MURRAY ON THE EC: "WE'RE NOT GETTING OUR KNICKERS IN A TWIST"
TAGS: ELAB, UK, XH, XF, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006